

## Father Nguyen Van Ly

**Adoption Status:** Adopted by Representative Christ Smith (R-NJ)

**Country:** Vietnam

**Occupation:** Catholic priest, one of the founders of Bloc 8406 and past editor of an underground Vietnamese publication

**Detained Since:** 2011

**Charges:** Spreading anti-government propaganda

**Sentence:** 8 years in prison



**Additional:** Father Nguyen Van Ly has spent over 15 years in prison for the causes of religious freedom, democracy, and human rights. Initially arrested in September 1977 and sentenced to 20 years in a labor camp near Hue, he was later released but prohibited from engaging in religious activities. He was returned to jail in 2001 when he submitted testimony to the U.S. Congress and the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom opposing a U.S.-Vietnam Bilateral Trade Act. On March 30, 2007, in a broadcasted show trial, authorities muzzled him while he tried to defend himself. He is one of the founders of Bloc 8406 and past editor of an underground publication. Father Nguyen Van Ly was briefly released from prison for medical reasons, but was returned to jail in 2011.

**Adopted**